

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
DHARMAPURI VIDYASAGER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service of a distinguished faculty member in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Dharmapuri Vidyasager currently serves as the Director of Neonatology and Co-Director of the Perinatal Center at UIC. Hired specifically to establish a Neonatal Intensive Care unit, he began his career with UIC as the Director of Newborn Nurseries in 1974. During the interim 33 years, he became a full professor in 1977 and served as the interim Head of the Department of Pediatrics in 1983. I seek to recognize Dr. Vidyasager today in anticipation of his retirement in November of this year.

Without question, Dr. Vidyasager has contributed significantly to the field of neonatology as a physician, a researcher, and an educator. From establishing the first neonatal care unit in the State of Illinois at Cook County Hospital in 1971 to helping decrease the Illinois infant mortality rate from 25 to 7 deaths per 1,000 births to aiding other nations in reducing neonatal and infant mortality, his medical work has had a substantial, direct effect on newborn children. Dr. Vidyasager's research on surfactant systems in lungs and the treatment of the hyaline membrane disease has proved quite essential to the major advancements that have taken place in the field of neonatology. In addition, Dr. Vidyasager has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing high caliber physicians. During his tenure, Dr. Vidyasager trained more than 70 neonatologists, some of whom are nationally and internationally known academicians. He was responsible for developing the UIC Medical Center's teaching program into one of the most highly recognized physician training centers. Further, he has conducted training sessions and provided free consultations on the establishment of modern neonatal intensive care units across the globe including—but not limited to—China, India, Poland, Lithuania, and Uzbekistan.

In 2006, Dr. Vidyasager's work was honored via his nomination for inclusion in the Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.'s Top Doctors of America and The Best Doctors Directory. His service to the field of neonatology, his patients, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and to the City of Chicago has been quite extraordinary. I honor his retirement in November 2007 with the words of Frederick Douglass as he once said, "Man's greatness consists in his ability to do and the proper application of his powers to things needed to be done." The accomplishments of Dr. Vidyasager over the last three decades have done a great deal to illustrate his greatness.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Sacramento Public Library's 150 years of providing excellent service to Sacramento residents. In 1857 the Sacramento Library was established by community leaders and has grown to include 26 other branches and bookmobiles. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting 150 years of first-rate service provided by the Sacramento Public Library.

The Central Library, located in downtown Sacramento has evolved since Sacramento's leaders established it as the center for scholarly thought in the region in 1857. Led by the efforts of distinguished Sacramentans such as Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, Collis Potter Huntington, Mark Hopkins and Newton Booth, the library officially opened on November 6, 1857. At its inception, the library originally served about 40 visitors per day and issued 150 books per week. A decade later the library association's prosperity continued to increase, and they were able to purchase a downtown lot on I Street. Eventually, through donations from the Carnegie Foundation and the city, the Central Library moved into the distinctive 3 story brick building on April 23, 1918. Today, the Central Library's vast collection has grown to include nearly 300,000 volumes, with more than 1,000 periodical subscriptions. Their catalog also includes special collections and a variety of historic government documents.

The Sacramento Public Library provides service to 1,269,000 residents in the Sacramento region making it the fifth largest library in California. Its extensive collection makes it the sixth largest library in terms of materials held. The library's 340 staff members help to operate the 27 branches. The library owns over 100,000 audio-visual items, subscribes to 4,000 periodicals and provides 345 technology workstations for public use.

In 1984, The Sacramento Public Library Foundation was created as a nonprofit corporation to encourage and support the benefits of the Sacramento Public Library. The Foundation has been instrumental in raising money to purchase books, computers, reading enrichment programs, bookmobiles, literacy classes, and after school homework centers. Without the \$7 million raised by the Foundation to date, many of these vital services would not be possible. The Foundation's strength stems from its wide support of over 16,000 donors who have been supportive of the Sacramento Public Library and its abundance of resources.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 150 years of service provided by the Sacramento Public Library. In the coming years

the library will continue to expand its collection and make its services more readily available to Sacramento residents. As the Sacramento Community and library's supporters gather to celebrate 150 years of success, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Sacramento Public Library.

NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I recently led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Reykjavik, Iceland, from October 5–October 9. The co-chair of my delegation was the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. In addition, Representatives JOHN BOOZMAN, JO ANN EMERSON, JEFF MILLER, DENNIS MOORE, RALPH REGULA, MIKE ROSS, DAVID SCOTT, ELLEN TAUSCHER, and TOM UDALL, and staff, worked to make these meetings a success in the examination of a number of front-line NATO issues.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly brings together members of parliament from all 26 allied states. In addition, observer delegations from such countries as Russia, Georgia, Macedonia, Croatia, and Albania bring a wide range of views to the table in discussion of issues of interest to Americans and Europeans. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly breaks into committees for presentation and discussion of reports by the parliamentary delegates. These sessions provide an opportunity to gauge the issues of greatest interest to NATO governments, and give our own Members not only the chance to voice their own views, but to understand the debates occurring in such key countries as Germany, France, and Britain.

There were several key issues that surfaced in the different committees. NATO's mission in Afghanistan was perhaps the most important. The future of Kosovo, now in the final stages of its quest for independence, was another. Enlargement of the alliance, an important subject of discussion at the coming NATO summit in Bucharest in April 2008, drew considerable attention. Other issues evident in the different committees were Russia's relations with the alliance, energy security, and missile defense.

I have been chairman of the Committee on Economics and Security, and was re-elected to that position in Reykjavik. I will take the opportunity to mention that Rep. BOOZMAN was also re-elected to serve another year as a rapporteur in that committee. Together with a Lithuanian member of parliament, he presented a well-received report on the rise of an east Asian economic system. There was also a report on trends in allied defense management in burdensharing. The report triggered a vigorous discussion of NATO's effort to stabilize Afghanistan. Forces from the United

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

States, Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands bear the brunt of the fighting there, and there was an appeal for other member governments to contribute more troops and other resources. While there is widespread agreement in the alliance that stabilization of Afghanistan is a critical step in the effort to subdue terrorism, some governments with capable forces remain reluctant to put their troops in harm's way.

The Political Committee also saw a contentious debate over Afghanistan. A Canadian delegate ably presented a report calling for a reduction in caveats—the restrictions that some governments place on the use of their forces—and for more troops. There was also a report on NATO's efforts in the conflict against terrorism. The report laid out the good cooperation between the United States and the European Union in law-enforcement efforts to undercut terrorist financing schemes and to intercept terrorists as they move about the world; it also noted that NATO as an institution can bring political pressure to bear on governments around the world that support or turn a blind eye to terrorist activity on their soil. Another subject of vigorous debate was a resolution on the NATO-Russian relationship. The resolution was rightfully critical of Russia's efforts to intimidate such allies as Lithuania through cutoffs of energy supplies, and such friendly governments as Georgia by support for rebel groups within those governments' territories. The Russian delegates defended the actions of their government, and tried to water down the resolution. Mr. ROSS and Mr. UDALL strongly supported the key points of the resolution, which passed with nearly unanimous support from the delegates from the allied states. Mr. ROSS was elected as a rapporteur in the Political Committee, and will present a report on NATO and Iran at the spring meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly in Berlin.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security saw the presentation of reports on Montenegro's role in the Balkans, and on the protection of critical infrastructure, such as oil pipelines and communications networks, in allied states. There were also two presentations by outside speakers that drew considerable interest. Mark Lowenthal, a former staff director of the House Intelligence Committee and later the Counselor at the CIA, made a well-defined presentation on intelligence, terrorism, and civil liberties. The delegates followed his presentation with a discussion of appropriate oversight of intelligence operations by parliaments in the effort to protect personal freedoms. Next, an Icelandic government minister gave a presentation on an emerging issue: as climate change causes the melting of part of the Arctic ice pack, claims by a number of states to seabed resources and the right to move through the "Northwest Passage" have begun to emerge. Transit through the Northwest Passage, if feasible, could reduce the voyage of petroleum tankers from the North Sea, for example, to Asia by approximately 4,000 miles. NATO governments have begun a quiet debate over how to provide security for ships using northern routes around Iceland and through possible sea lanes north of Canada.

Two members of our delegation assumed offices on the Committee on Civil Dimension of Security. JO ANN EMERSON was re-elected a vice-chair of the subcommittee on democratic governance, and DENNIS MOORE was elected vice-chair of the full committee.

The Committee on Science and Technology heard reports on a range of issues, the most

interesting being a report on climate change, and another on proliferation of missile technologies. The discussion on climate change, given the setting in Iceland where glaciers are reportedly melting with unforeseen rapidity, was vigorous and thoughtful. The discussion on proliferation led to a debate over missile defense. Rep. TAUSCHER made several crisp, clear interventions that outlined the U.S. debate over a prospective missile defense against Iran. She also provided a telling critique of a Russian delegate's wandering and often inaccurate presentation on elements of U.S. defense policy. The committee voted not to adopt the Russian delegate's report.

The Committee on Defense and Security also heard a debate, contentious at times, on NATO operations in Afghanistan. The British delegate who presented the report called on allied governments with minimal resources committed to Afghanistan to work to persuade their publics of the importance of the operations of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and to contribute more troops. The alliance needs more helicopters and combat troops, especially for rapid-response actions, in the areas of the country where the Taliban are active. There was also a report on the efforts of NATO's three candidate states—Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia—to receive invitations to enter the alliance at the upcoming Bucharest summit. It is evident that the three governments have made considerable progress in defense reform, but some European parliamentarians questioned their progress in democratic governance. It is by no means a certainty that all three governments will receive invitations at Bucharest. There was also a report on the trip to Afghanistan by a number of parliamentarians, including Rep. SHIMKUS, on the progress to date of the ISAF mission. Rep. SHIMKUS also gave a well-received report on NATO-EU coordination in security matters. He analyzed the positive steps in such coordination, as well as some of the shortfalls, including the difficulties encountered in NATO's efforts to provide security to the EU's important police-training mission in Afghanistan. Rep. SHIMKUS was elected a vice-chair of the subcommittee on transatlantic defense and security cooperation, and Rep. TAUSCHER was elected the chair of the subcommittee on future security and defense capabilities.

It should also be noted that Rep. EMERSON was elected a vice-president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill out the term of the late Paul Gillmor. This is a senior position that reflects her dedication to the Assembly's work and her evocation of the importance of the alliance to the United States.

One of the more valuable aspects of Assembly meetings is the opportunity afforded for side meetings with senior U.S. and European officials. Before we left for Reykjavik, we had a briefing on allied matters from our ambassador to NATO, Victoria Nuland, and from Daniel Fried of the State Department and Dan Fata from the Pentagon. Each outlined clearly some of the key issues facing the alliance. In Reykjavik, we had a private discussion with Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the NATO Secretary General; we discussed Afghanistan, enlargement, and Kosovo's future, as well as other issues. The U.S. ambassador to Iceland, Carol van Voorst, and her staff provided insight into and advice on U.S.-Icelandic relations. We also held a private meeting with the Macedo-

nian foreign minister, Antonio Milososki, where there was a good discussion of his country's efforts to qualify for NATO membership. Before our departure for Reykjavik, staff also held a meeting in Washington with representatives of the Croatian government to discuss Zagreb's efforts to qualify for membership. It must be said that one of the great values of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is the opportunity to meet our counterparts from the parliaments of allied states. The chance to learn national and regional perspectives provides our own delegation with insights into key allied issues, and how we might resolve a range of questions of great importance to U.S. security.

I wish to add that this was the first meeting in many years that we were without our friend, the late Rep. Paul Gillmor. He had been my delegation co-chair since the beginning of the 110th Congress, and we conducted many meetings together, in harmony and friendship. He served in a number of offices in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and was always the voice of reason and judiciousness. He was widely admired, not only here in the United States, but by his Assembly colleagues across the political spectrum. There was a moving tribute to his memory during the plenary session of the Assembly on October 9. He will be greatly missed.

As always, our military personnel played an important role in the success of the delegation's trip. The air crew came from the 1st Airlift Squadron, which is part of the 89th Airlift Wing located at Andrews Air Force Base. They are all on active duty. In addition, three Air Force active duty personnel and one reservist served as our congressional escort team. All worked long hours to ensure that our trip went smoothly. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LABOR-MANAGEMENT PARTNER- SHIP ACT OF 2007

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Former President Clinton once said, "Only by changing the nature of federal labor-management relations, so that managers, employees, and employees' representatives serve as partners, will it be possible to design and implement comprehensive changes necessary to government." With this ideal in mind, I am proud to introduce the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Act of 2007, the Act.

The Act codifies Executive Order 12871, signed by former President Clinton in 1993. During its implementation, labor-management partnerships created a co-equal forum for managers and labor representatives to negotiate, plan, and exercise collective bargaining and effective decision-making. The impetus behind the Executive Order was recognition of the need to transform hostile, adversarial labor-management relationships into valuable problem solving partnerships. This method of bilateral affiliation proved to be successful for the civil service. It helped boost employee morale, and aided agencies in improving and upholding their service missions.

The need to re-establish labor-management partnerships is clear. In many Government agencies there is a lack of trust exhibited between managers, employees, and their representatives. This has created a morale problem at many mission critical agencies; including the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, which was named in a recent study by the Office of Personnel Management as having the lowest level of morale in the Federal Government.

Now, more than ever, the American people expect Government to lead by example. Therefore, it is imperative to restore labor-management partnerships. Partnership is a proven practice that works. Partnership gives added value to the federal workforce; and it is my fervent belief that partnership is essential for a more productive civil service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BEVERLY A.
SCOTT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Beverly A. Scott's service as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Sacramento Regional Transit District. Dr. Scott leaves a lasting legacy in Sacramento and she will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

Dr. Scott has been a tireless advocate for public transportation. After earning a doctorate in political science from Howard University, she started her career in 1977 at Texas Southern University as one of four national recipients of a Carnegie Foundation Fellowship. Dr. Scott went on to work as the general manager at the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority as well as holding executive management positions with transit agencies in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC. In New York, Dr. Scott was the first woman appointed vice president of surface transit and she was responsible for the daily transit operations of New York and Staten Island Rail.

With such an accomplished past, Dr. Scott joined the Sacramento Regional Transit District in October of 2002 and increased morale immediately. Using a variety of tools, Dr. Scott created a new strategic plan involving a wide variety of partners, both inside and outside of Regional Transit's organization. Under her leadership, the Regional Transit successfully expanded light rail to Sunrise Boulevard, followed by an extension to the City of Folsom. Light rail has also expanded in downtown Sacramento to the Amtrak station.

Dr. Scott played an instrumental role in the renewal of Measure A, which provides local funding for mass transit and transportation priorities. For the past 3 years, Regional Transit has been awarded a financial accountability award of excellence for their improved budget reporting, and fiscal management. Dr. Scott also created the Regional Transit University to improve employee training. With Transit Etiquette Program forums and the restructuring of RT's Mobility Advisory Committee Dr. Scott's leadership has helped Regional Transit serve all of us in Sacramento that use public transit.

The Sacramento Regional Transit District, also known as RT, has recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of light rail. RT operates a comprehensive public transit system that includes 97 bus routes and 37 miles of light rail, covering a 418 square-mile service area. Buses and light rail run 365 days a year from 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., giving riders ample opportunities to utilize their services. Using 76 light rail vehicles, 254 buses powered by compressed natural gas and 17 shuttle vans, RT is not only affordable and convenient but also environmentally friendly.

Personally, Dr. Scott has been a pleasure to work with. Her compassion and spirit has made her a wonderful addition to the Sacramento community as well. She is a caring, smart and thoughtful administrator, who knows how to be tough when needed. I have been told that she is affectionately known as "Hurricane Bev" for her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to getting the job done, while those who work with her also call her "Mummy."

For her work in Sacramento and across the Nation, Dr. Scott has received numerous awards, including awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation, American Public Transportation Association, National Business League, Women's Transportation Seminar, Rhode Island Professional Engineers Society, Sierra Club, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Urban League, City Year, and Paratransit.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Beverly A. Scott's distinguished commitment to Sacramento's public transportation. Dr. Scott has stood as an instrumental force behind the advancement of the Sacramento Regional Transit District and has helped improve the overall quality of life for generations to come. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Dr. Scott's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT THOMAS NEWTON ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize SMSgt Tom Newton for his 24 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Superintendent, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, where he is responsible for Air Force legislative matters and facilitating worldwide Congressional travel. As you know, Madam Speaker, Sergeant Newton has professionally served as your escort for two Congressional delegations this year and a dozen other delegation trips around the world since 2004.

Prior to June 2004, he was the Chief, Workgroup Manager for Headquarters Security Forces, Pentagon, responsible to the Director for network security, antiterrorism, force protection, and supporting Operation Global

Eagle. From 1998 to 2001, Sergeant Newton was the Information Management Superintendent for the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessments (J-8) Directorate, Joint Staff, Pentagon. He served as Deputy Executive and facilitated multiple Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessments on behalf of the Director. Prior to January 1998, he served as Instructor, Information Management Craftsmen Course at Keesler AFB in Mississippi, where he earned Master Instructor Certification. Sergeant Newton began his illustrious career at the 4th Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, where he directly supported the 4404th Provisional Wing during Operation Desert Storm/Shield.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to SMSgt Tom Newton for his outstanding service to both legislative branches and our United States Air Force. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Senior Master Sergeant Newton is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

CODELS FOR SMSGT NEWTON

2004

CODEL Bilirakis—Athens, Greece/Venice, Italy (7-16 Nov).

2005

CODEL Shimkus—St. Louis, Missouri (26-28 Jan).

CODEL Bilirakis—Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France/London, UK (18-28 Feb).

CODEL King—Vienna, Austria/Aman, Jordan/Tel Aviv, Israel/Cairo, Egypt/Rabat, Morocco (30 Jul-7 Aug).

SPEAKER Hastert—Glasgow, Scotland/Luxembourg (15-20 Sep).

2006

CODEL Hefley—San Diego, California (25-29 Jan).

CODEL Hefley—Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France/London, UK (17-28 Feb).

CODEL Goodlatte—Denver, Colorado/San Angelo, Texas (7-9 May).

CODEL Young—Alaska (29 Jul-6 Aug).

2007

SPEAKER Pelosi—Jerusalem, Israel/Damascus, Syria/Riyadh, Saudi Arabia/Lisbon, Portugal (29 Mar-7 Apr).

CODEL Tanner—Lisbon, Portugal/Tunis, Tunisia/Rabat, Morocco (24 May-3 Jun).

SPEAKER Pelosi—New Orleans, Louisiana (12-15 Aug).

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW
RICHARD WILL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Matthew Richard Will, a father, husband, firefighter, and hero who died recently in the line of duty helping to protect the people he had sworn to serve.

Matthew Will was a Heavy Fire Equipment Operator for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as Cal Fire. Will started his career with Cal Fire in 2003 and recently graduated from the department's fire academy in Lone. He was assigned to the Hollister Air Attack Base in Cal Fire's San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Earlier this month a house fire broke out in the heavily wooded and rugged area of Big

Sur, California, known as Palo Colorado Canyon. The fire soon spread to the surrounding brush and began to threaten the lives and property of other Palo Colorado Canyon residents. Quick action by Matthew and his comrades from Cal Fire and the other responding fire fighting agencies kept the fire from engulfing the whole canyon, limiting the damage to the initial home and about fifty surrounding acres. As part of this effort, Matthew was on his bulldozer working to check the spread of the fire by clearing a fire break. Tragically, Matthew's bulldozer slipped and tumbled down a steep slope. Matthew later died of his injuries.

Matthew Will's youth magnifies this tragedy. He was just 30 years old. He is survived by his wife Diana "Dee Dee" Will of Hollister, California; 10-year-old son Trysten; 8-year-old daughter Elsie; parents Gary and Debbie Will of Campo, California; and brothers Brandon and Justin Will of Campo, California.

Madam Speaker, I have been an occasional Big Sur resident myself for over 50 years. In that time I have seen fire threaten or destroy the homes and property of neighbors and acquaintances. The people of Big Sur live with a heightened sense of fire's danger and a deep respect for the men and women who risk their lives fighting those fires. I know I speak for this House and my neighbors when I share our deep gratitude for his service as a firefighter, and our deep sorrow at his death. Our prayers are with Matthew Will's family, friends, and colleagues at this time of grief and loss.

CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL TO MR. WILLIAM DUNN, A GREAT AMERICAN AND TEXAN, FOR 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, a congratulations and farewell is in order today for Mr. William "Cotton" Dunn.

Cotton graduated with a degree in accounting but quickly learned his true love and passion was for the game of golf. He went on to play tours, set records, and earn many respectable titles.

For the past 25 years Cotton has served as the Director of Golf at the Prestonwood Country Club. Over the years, he has received many honors. Most recently, he received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the Northern Texas PGA.

Much of the strength of the Lone Star State comes from the commitment and good will of individuals, and Cotton is no exception. His leadership both on and off the course has motivated, inspired, and encouraged hundreds of people, and for those reasons he will be missed.

We would like to wish you a long and happy retirement!

THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD'S 45TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) which is set to deploy to Iraq early next year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today, a farewell ceremony honoring 2,400 deploying soldiers in the 45th IBCT is taking place at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Oklahoma. Families and friends throughout the state will have an opportunity to celebrate the patriotism and courage of Oklahoma's citizen soldiers. This will be the largest single deployment of Oklahoma's citizen soldiers since the Korean War, an important event in the history of the Oklahoma National Guard.

On October 19, 2007, the 45th IBCT will begin to move their soldiers to the mobilization station at Fort Bliss, Texas. While at Fort Bliss, the brigade will undergo 10 to 12 weeks of intense mission specific training which will prepare them for any mission unique tasks that they will be required to perform while deploying to Iraq next year.

The stakes could not be higher for success in the Global War on Terror. The 45th IBCT will play a critical role in securing Iraq from al-Qaeda and other militants seeking to undermine Iraq's growth and security, and protect America from future threats.

I know this is not the first deployment for many of these brave men and women and their families back home. Their collective sacrifice for our Nation's security is symbolic of the pride Oklahoma has for our citizen soldiers serving in times of war and conflict.

I am confident the 45th IBCT is ready to answer the call in the defense of our Nation. With this deployment, they are carrying forward the proud history of this brigade. It is an honor to represent many of these brave citizen soldiers in Congress, and I look forward to supporting the 45th IBCT's critically important mission to the fullest extent possible.

A TRIBUTE TO TYPECRAFT WOOD & JONES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Typecraft Wood & Jones, a family-owned business, which is celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of Wood & Jones Printers and the sixtieth anniversary of Typecraft, Inc.

Wood & Jones Printers was founded in 1907 in Pasadena, California by Bert Wood, a pressman from New England and Fred Jones, a typographer from Canada. Bert's son, Richard Wood, introduced offset lithography to the business in the 1940s. Chris Wood, Bert's grandson, introduced phototypesetting and added a drive-through photocopy division to the business in the 1980s. Richard operated

and expanded the business in partnership with Bert's nephew, David Wood into the 1980s, and in 1987, Hanna Wood, granddaughter of Bert, assumed responsibility for the business.

Typecraft, Inc. was formed in 1947 by Emer Bates, and Len Jasmin, former publisher and former manager of the Pasadena Independent Newspaper. In the 1960s, Harry Montgomery joined Typecraft, Inc., partnering with Len Jasmin.

J.J. Gish, whose father Jerry Gish was a 50-year employee of Typecraft, Inc., purchased Wood & Jones Printers in 1994 and became partners with Harry Montgomery, Emer Bates' son-in-law in 2000. Typecraft, Inc. and Wood & Jones Printers were merged at that time into one company.

Both Typecraft, Inc. and Wood & Jones Printers separately and together have kept abreast of the latest technologies, creating quality printed materials for businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, museums, and fine art museums. Typecraft Wood & Jones is the annual print sponsor for AIGS Los Angeles, the Professional Association for Design.

Over the last century, Typecraft Wood & Jones has supported a variety of worthwhile local organizations and institutions such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena, Boy Scouts of America, the Pasadena Library Foundation, Aids Service Center, Huntington Memorial Hospital, Zonta Club, John Marshall Fundamental School and the Pasadena Senior Center. In addition, Typecraft Wood & Jones also contributes to the Pasadena Art Alliance, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Pasadena Playhouse, Armory Center for the Arts and Pasadena City College School of Fine Arts.

It is my great honor to recognize Typecraft Wood & Jones upon the combined one-hundred sixty years of dedicated service to the community of greater Pasadena. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2095) to, amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007, H.R. 2095, authored by Congressman JAMES OBERSTAR, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

This legislation, which I believe adequately balances overdue safety improvements with the need to keep commerce moving, is the first significant rail safety legislation to come before the House since the most recent authorization of federal safety programs expired nearly 10 years ago.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this measure and I applaud the dedicated leadership that has brought this legislation to the floor today.

Particular attention should be given to the measures included in H.R. 2095—and in the manager's amendment also under consideration—that address the unique safety concerns associated with railroad tunnels and bridges.

On July 18, 2001, a CSX train traveling through the Howard Street Tunnel in my district in Baltimore derailed, puncturing several tank cars and igniting a flammable liquid that created a massive fire.

Following that terrible accident, I joined Chairman OBERSTAR in requesting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to undertake a study on railroad tunnel and bridge safety. This study was released on August 30th of this year.

In brief, the study found that Class I railroads own and maintain more than 61,000 bridges and more than 800 tunnels—while Class II railroads own and maintain more than 15,000 bridges. These are staggering numbers that clearly demonstrate how important the safety of these pieces of infrastructure is to the operation of our Nation's rail network.

The legislation and manager's amendment before us today address concerns raised both in the GAO report and in the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) report on the Howard Street Tunnel fire.

Section 609 of the underlying bill, which I offered as an amendment during the Committee markup of this legislation, is intended to ensure that the first responders called to incidents in rail tunnels have all of the information they need to provide an effective response to the situation they encounter.

Section 609 responds directly to the NTSB's findings in its investigation of the Howard Street Tunnel fire that Baltimore City first responders did not have adequate information on hazardous discharge procedures in the Tunnel or on ingress and egress pathways into and out of the Tunnel.

To ensure that such a situation is never repeated, Section 609 requires railroads to make available to local jurisdictions information on rail tunnel ingress and egress pathways and on the types of cargoes transported through long tunnels or tunnels through which more than 5 passenger trains per day or more than 500 carloads of toxic inhalation materials per year are moved.

The manager's amendment before us responds directly to the findings of the recent GAO report by imposing significant new safety requirements on railroads regarding the assessment of bridge weight bearing capacity and bridge inspection procedures.

Additionally, it imposes new requirements on the review of bridge inspection data by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Through these measures, the manager's amendment seeks to create a comprehensive safety regime for railroad bridges—which is long overdue.

The measures in H.R. 2095 on railroad tunnels and bridges are just two of the many safety improvements that this bill would make in the operation of our Nation's railroad network—but are examples of how this bill responds directly to the safety concerns that have been identified since the last reauthorization of the Federal Railroad Administration.

I am confident that enactment of H.R. 2095 will significantly improve the safety of rail operations in the United States. I again thank Chairman OBERSTAR—and Chairwoman BROWN—for their work on this measure and I urge its passage.

CELEBRATING THE WORLD-CLASS PIEROGIES OF CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform Congress what so many people in my district have known for years—that Clifton, New Jersey is indeed a pierogi lover's heaven.

Clifton has a rich history of Eastern European ancestry, and this delicacy is indeed one of the many fine contributions made by those of that region in the world.

And in the Eighth District of New Jersey—one of the most diverse in the country—people from all cultures and walks of life can agree that the city of Clifton has some of the finest pierogies in America.

Indeed, the pierogi has reached almost mythical status in Clifton. It is sold in restaurants and delis, churches and schools. One would be hard pressed to find the dish absent from a single menu in the city.

The people of Clifton possess a genuine love for the pierogi, more so than anywhere else I have seen, whether stuffed with the traditional potato and cheese, or more exotic fillings, like papayas and blueberries.

Showing their true dedication, last month the City Council of Clifton decreed that every day of the year in Clifton is now officially "Pierogi Day."

And it has now come to my attention that Clifton is one of five cities vying for the title of pierogi capital of the Nation. The public can vote online at www.pierogypocket.com. I could not recommend Clifton more strongly.

In the Eighth District, we are proud of the strong cultural ties that each of us has to our heritage. The City of Clifton's love for the pierogi truly embodies this spirit.

Clifton desires neither the fame nor fortune that would come with being named pierogi capital of the world. They only seek to confirm the obvious. The title would be the sour cream and fried onions on top.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND CANON RICHARD LIVINGSTON MARQUESS-BARRY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry, Pastor of the Historic Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church in Miami, Florida.

A native of Miami, Florida, Reverend Barry obtained his early education from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He is a proud

graduate of Miami Northwestern Sr. High School Class of 1958 where his portrait still hangs in the school's Hall of Fame. He furthered his education at Saint Augustine's College, in Raleigh, North Carolina and went on to get his Doctor of Human Letters degree from Barber-Scotia College, Concord, North Carolina in 1995.

Married to Virla Rolle Barry, Reverend Barry has been blessed in this holy matrimony for over 40 years. Also blessed to this union is one daughter Diana, who is married to Ronald Frazier, II, and two grandsons Richard and Ronald.

This visionary of a pastor became God's shepherd par excellence under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, as he continues to guide his Congregation. He has led Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church with a good mixture of old-time religion and civic responsibility that continues to encourage the members not only to become spiritual and moral leaders, but also responsible and conscientious guardians of good government and community pride.

Reverend Barry has dedicated his life to making the lives of those around him better. Further demonstrated, as one of the many programs under his leadership, the church adopted a HUD project, Rainbow Village Housing Development and lobbied the Miami-Dade Housing Authority to completely renovate the complex. As a result of this action, the tenant council of Rainbow Village and the Vestry of this parish formed the Saint Agnes' Rainbow Village Community Development Corporation (CDC). Through the CDC, 80 two-story, three and four bedroom/two and one-half bath, single-family homes for ownership were built for low and moderate income families.

An ordained priest of the Episcopal Church and having served as a Priest for 39 years, Father Barry's leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a spiritual leader immersed in Scriptural commitment, he has earned the community's deepest respect. This is the legacy with which he now guides his Church.

Indeed, it is fitting and proper to give praise to Almighty God for blessing the Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church with the longevity of leadership through Reverend Barry. His service to his Congregation and to all those who seek comfort and solace in its Church sanctuary leaves an everlasting mark.

Today, I honor Reverend Barry for the years of dedication and commitment to his church and the community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GUARDSMEN OF COAST AIR STATION ELIZABETH CITY SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay a sincere tribute to the Search and Rescue Team of Lieutenant Marc Tunstall, Ensign Jason Evans, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Ackermann and Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Acuna. These men of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City rescued a downed Navy fighter pilot from the Atlantic Ocean this past Thursday.

At 6 p.m. on October 11, 2007, Lt. Marc Tunstall and Ensign Jason Evans, pilot and co-pilot of a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter found the downed F/A-18 Hornet nearly 80 miles off Cape Henry, Virginia. Rescue swimmer Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Ackermann was dispatched to retrieve the pilot from the ocean, whereupon the rescued pilot was hoisted in the helicopter by flight mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Acuna. The rescued pilot was transported to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where he is in stable condition, with only minor injuries from the crash.

Madam Speaker, this successful rescue is one of nearly 360 search and rescue missions executed every year by the men and women of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. In the last 60 years, the Air Station has rescued or assisted over 10,000 people. I am proud that Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City is located in my district, and more proud of the exemplary work and bravery exhibited by the men and women who save hundreds of lives each year. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the commendable work of Lt. Tunstall, Ensign Evans, Petty Officer 2nd Class Ackermann and Petty Officer 3rd Class Acuna.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING WITH-
HOLDING OF INFORMATION RE-
LATING TO CORRUPTION IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, five years ago today, President George W. Bush signed into law the "Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq," H.J. Res. 114.

In the House, the bill passed on October 10, 2002, by a vote of 296–133. I was one of 126 Democrats who voted against this grossly misguided bill, concluding that further diplomacy was needed over a U.S. military strike.

And today—I remain unyielding in my stance that diplomacy, rather than military action is the answer to creating political reconciliation in Iraq.

We must implement a diplomatic strategy that is framed upon the doorway of the U.N. and hinges on the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, U.S. allies and the will of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, as the Iraq Study Group concluded, a diplomatic strategy of gaining multi-lateral and bilateral support throughout the international community, especially with Iraq's neighboring states will help marginalize extremists and terrorists, promote U.S. values and interests, and improve America's global image.

Unfortunately, to date, the President's new strategy is not a new strategy at all and continues the same failed plan that was utilized prior to the surge. His failed plan has resulted in over 3,800 U.S. soldiers being killed and over 27,000 American soldiers being wounded.

Additionally, at least 150,000 of our service members have been victims of concussions,

many of whom will suffer from life long injuries that have no medical or technological resolutions—including blindness, deafness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. In the great State of Maryland alone, we continue to mourn the deaths of 70 service members and our prayers go out to over 392 brave men and women in uniform who suffer from wounds gained on the battlefield of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, as we look back over the last five years we can only point to meager accomplishments while the overwhelming factor that shatters the forefront of our memory is the onslaught of bloodshed, further internal and external displacement of the Iraqi people, further corruption of the Iraqi government and further strained relations in the Middle East due in large part to the President's stubborn course of military operations in Iraq.

In fact, corruption within the Iraqi government is as bad as ever and has become what has been described by Stuart Bowen, the U.S. State Department's Special Inspector for Reconstruction in Iraq as a 'second insurgency' threatening to undermine U.S. and Iraqi efforts to build a stable democracy. As concluded by the Iraqi Commission for Public Integrity, corruption cases have increased by a staggering 70 percent in the last year, despite the Administration's efforts to quell these concerns by layering them in bureaucratic red tape and retroactively labeling unwarranted information as being classified.

As such, I congratulate my colleagues on passing H. Res. 734, which is a step in the right direction. Specifically, this legislation sends a strong message to the Administration that anti-democratic practices will not be tolerated. It also sends a message to the Iraqi Government that the U.S. Government will not sit idly by as Americans continue to sacrifice their lives at the expense of sustaining a mismanaged Iraqi Government.

Considering the ongoing corruption in Iraq, it is clear that our military can not do what should be the job of ambassadors, foreign dignitaries and heads of state.

As we look to the future, I hope that the Administration will shift from these failed policies in Iraq to a new policy that is fundamentally diplomatic and weighs heavily on the assistance of the international community.

We owe this to our brave soldiers, their families and friends, the American people, and to the people of Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE PIERCE
FROST

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California has been exceptional. The Riverside educational community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent for the betterment of our children. Maxine Frost is one of these individuals. On December 8, 2007, Maxine will be honored at a retirement dinner after serving 40 years as a

member of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education.

Mrs. Maxine Frost graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in history and has been a resident and active member of the Riverside community since 1958. Mrs. Frost's interest in education began with her involvement in the education of her children. She was an active mother who served on various school committees. In 1967, the President of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education selected Maxine to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education. During her tenure, Mrs. Frost witnessed history including the desegregation of the Riverside school district. Maxine went on to serve on the California School Boards Association and in 1981 she was elected President of the organization.

During her tenure on the Board, Maxine has been elected by her fellow board members to serve as board president, vice-president and clerk. One of Maxine's many success stories is the creation and development of the AVID program: Achievement Via Individual Determination. AVID offers average students the opportunity to take college prep classes while teaching them study techniques and teamwork.

Mrs. Frost's involvement in the community is not limited to education; she has also dedicated her time to many other organizations that improve our quality of life including the Riverside Art Alliance, Junior League of Riverside, League of Women Voters and the National Charity League. One reflection of Maxine's many contributions to the community are the countless awards and honors she has received over the years. Recently the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education voted to name a school after Maxine, a vote which required the Board to make an exception to its policy which requires that a person be deceased for two years before a facility can be designated.

Mrs. Maxine Frost's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. She has been the heart and soul of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education and many other community organizations. I am proud to call Maxine a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

INDIA IS A DEFICIENT
DEMOCRACY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was extremely disappointed today to see the Human Rights Watch had to issue a statement calling on the Government of India to finally take concrete steps to hold accountable members of its security forces who killed, "disappeared," and tortured thousands of Sikhs during its military campaign in the Punjab. I was disappointed because India should already be doing this. I was disappointed because this call to action is simply further proof that India—which prides itself on being the

world's most populous democracy—is in reality a highly deficient democracy; and that it has yet to do what it legally and morally must do; which is to clean up its atrocious human rights record.

The massive human rights violations of the Indian Government have been well documented. In fact, according to the Department of State's 2006 Human Rights Report for India: "Major problems included extrajudicial killings of persons in custody, disappearances, torture and rape by police and security forces. The lack of accountability permeated the government and security forces, creating an atmosphere in which human rights violations often went unpunished. Although the country has numerous laws protecting human rights, enforcement was lax and convictions were rare." Again, these are not my words; this is from the State Department's official report on Human Rights.

Although relations between India and the United States have been rocky in the past, since 2004 Washington and New Delhi have been pursuing a "strategic partnership" based on shared values such as democracy, multiculturalism, and rule of law. In addition, numerous economic, security and globally focused initiatives, including plans for "full civilian nuclear energy cooperation," are currently underway. I support these initiatives but I remain deeply concerned about the numerous serious problems that remain when it comes to India's respect for the rights of all of her citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of the Human Rights press release into the RECORD at this time. I urge my colleagues to read it and remember it and as the United States and India move towards greater cooperation in numerous endeavors to insist that India live up to its moniker and adhere to the full expression of democracy and basic human rights; especially for members of ethnic or religious minorities.

INDIA: TIME TO DELIVER JUSTICE FOR ATROCITIES IN PUNJAB

DELHI.—The Indian government must take concrete steps to hold accountable members of its security forces who killed, "disappeared," and tortured thousands of Sikhs during its counterinsurgency campaign in the Punjab, Human Rights Watch and Ensaaf said in a new report released today.

In order to end the institutional defects that foster impunity in Punjab and elsewhere in the country, the government should take new legal and practical steps, including the establishment of a commission of inquiry, a special prosecutor's office, and an extensive reparations program.

The 123-page report, "Protecting the Killers: A Policy of Impunity in Punjab, India," examines the challenges faced by victims and their relatives in pursuing legal avenues for accountability for the human rights abuses perpetrated during the government's counterinsurgency campaign. The report describes the impunity enjoyed by officials responsible for violations and the near total failure of India's judicial and state institutions, from the National Human Rights Commission to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to provide justice for victims' families.

Beginning in the 1980s, Sikh separatists in Punjab committed serious human rights abuses, including the massacre of civilians, attacks upon Hindu minorities in the state, and indiscriminate bomb attacks in crowded places. In its counterinsurgency operations in Punjab from 1984 to 1995, Indian security

forces committed serious human rights abuses against tens of thousands of Sikhs. None of the key architects of this counterinsurgency strategy who bear substantial responsibility for these atrocities have been brought to justice.

"Impunity in India has been rampant in Punjab, where security forces committed large-scale human rights violations without any accountability," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "No one disputes that the militants were guilty of numerous human rights abuses, but the government should have acted within the law instead of sanctioning the killing, 'disappearance,' and torture of individuals accused of supporting the militants."

A key case discussed in detail in the report is the Punjab "mass cremations case," in which the security services are implicated in thousands of killings and secret cremations throughout Punjab to hide the evidence of wrongdoing. The case is currently before the National Human Rights Commission, a body specially empowered by the Supreme Court to address this case. However, the commission has narrowed its efforts to merely establishing the identity of the individuals who were secretly cremated in three crematoria in just one district of Punjab. It has rejected cases from other districts and has ignored the intentional violations of human rights perpetrated by India's security forces. For more than a decade, the commission has failed to independently investigate a single case and explicitly refuses to identify any responsible officials.

"The National Human Rights Commission has inexplicably failed in its duties to investigate and establish exactly what happened in Punjab," said Adams. "We still hold out hope that it will change course and bring justice to victims and their families."

The report discusses the case of Jaswant Singh Khaira, a leading human rights defender in Punjab who was abducted and then murdered in October 1995 by government officials after being held in illegal detention for almost two months. Despite credible eye-witness testimony that police chief KPS Gill was directly involved in interrogating Khaira in illegal detention just days prior to Khaira's murder, the Central Bureau of Investigation has thus far refused to investigate or prosecute Gill. In September 2006, Khaira's widow, Paramjit Kaur, filed a petition in the Punjab & Haryana High Court calling on the CBI to take action against Gill. More than a year later, she is still waiting for a hearing on the merits.

"Delivering justice in Punjab could set precedents throughout India for the redress of mass state crimes and superior responsibility," said Jaskaran Kaur, co-director of Ensaaf. "Indians and the rest of the world are watching to see if the current Indian government can muster the political will to do the right thing. If it fails, then the only conclusion that can be reached is that the state's institutions cannot or will not take on the security establishment. This has grave implications for Indian democracy."

Victims and their families seeking justice face severe challenges, including prolonged trials, biased prosecutors, an unresponsive judiciary, police intimidation and harassment of witnesses, and the failure to charge senior government officials despite evidence of their role in the abuses.

Tarlochan Singh described the hurdles he has faced in his now 18-year struggle before Indian courts for justice for the killing of his son, Kulwinder Singh:

"I used to receive threatening phone calls. The caller would say that they had killed thousands of boys and thrown them into canals, and they would also do that to Kulwinder Singh's wife, kid, or me and my wife . . .

"The trial has been proceeding . . . with very little evidence being recorded at each hearing, and with two to three months between hearings. During this time, key witnesses have died."

After Mohinder Singh's son Jugraj Singh was killed in an alleged faked armed encounter between security forces and separatists in January 1995, he pursued numerous avenues of justice. He brought his case before the Punjab & Haryana High Court and the CBI Special Court, but no police officer was charged. A CBI investigation found that Jugraj Singh had been killed and cremated by the police. However, 11 years and a few inquiry reports later, the CBI court ended Mohinder Singh's pursuit for accountability by dismissing his case in 2006. Mohinder Singh describes his interactions with the CBI:

"On one occasion when [the officer] from the CBI came to my house, he told me that I wasn't going to get anything out of this. Not justice and not even compensation. He further said that: 'I see you running around pursuing your case. But you shouldn't get into a confrontation with the police. You have to live here and they can pick you up at any time.' He was indirectly threatening me."

Human Rights Watch and Ensaaf expressed concern that the Indian government continues to cite the counterinsurgency operations in Punjab as a model for preserving national integrity.

"The government's illegal and inhuman policies in the name of security have allowed a culture of impunity to prevail that has brutalized its police and security forces," said Kaur.

The report suggests a comprehensive framework to address the institutionalized impunity that has prevented accountability in Punjab. The detailed recommendations include establishing a commission of inquiry, a special prosecutor's office, and an extensive reparations program.

"The Indian government needs to send a clear message to its security services, courts, prosecutors, and civil servants that it neither tolerates nor condones gross human rights violations under any circumstances," said Adams. "This requires a comprehensive and credible process of accountability that delivers truth, justice, and reparations to its victims, who demand nothing more than their rights guaranteed by India's constitution and international law."

HONORING ROBERT C. THOMPSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House the outstanding public service of Robert C. Thompson of McLean, Virginia, in my congressional district, as he prepares to retire this month.

Mr. Thompson has contributed more than 30 years of public service to our Nation, most recently as Deputy Director for Management and Administration of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which he helped completely restructure from the ground up following 9/11. He has proven himself a pioneering, tireless leader in the Navy's efforts to combat terrorism around the globe.

Robert Thompson began his career in the Army, where he saw armed conflict in Vietnam, and was stationed in the Republic of

Korea and stateside. After leaving the Army, Mr. Thompson joined the Naval Investigative Service as a special agent in 1976, where he quickly made a name for himself in counterintelligence. He was selected to head counterintelligence operations for the Navy in 1984, and was awarded the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement in December 1990.

In 1994, Mr. Thompson was detailed to the National Security Council, where he helped build the foundation of U.S. counterintelligence strategy. His contributions to this effort permanently improved this Nation's efforts in combating terrorism. During a later tenure as Acting Director of the National Counterintelligence Center, Mr. Thompson was entrusted with performing several high-profile damage assessments on the impact of espionage and security breaches of the highest order of importance to the U.S. government. His exemplary service was recognized with the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award bestowed by the U.S. Intelligence Community, in November 2001.

In retirement, Mr. Thompson looks forward to traveling with his wife, Betty Ann, and enjoying the outdoors with his family. His son, Robert, is currently on his second tour with the Virginia National Guard in the Middle East.

I am proud to call attention to Mr. Thompson's dedication. I congratulate Mr. Thompson on his exceptional performance, leadership, and unfailing commitment to his country. The contributions he has made to the intelligence community will serve as a strong foundation for future success in the global war on terror for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. HAZEL
BALDWIN FORBES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Hazel Baldwin Forbes. Hazel is a native of Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina and the daughter of Colene M. Baldwin Stanley and Prince Baldwin. She showed a genuine interest and aptitude for music at an early age. She first studied piano under the tutelage of Mrs. Tabitha Thompson from age seven through high school. At the age of 15, she became solely responsible for directing the senior choir at the Little Wheel of Hope Baptist Church in Lake Waccamaw. During her years as a teen musical prodigy, she was in great demand for performances at weddings, funerals, concerts, recitals and as an accompanist for soloists and vocalists.

Upon Hazel's admission to Shaw University, she auditioned and was selected as a pianist and accompanist for the University Chorale Society under the direction of Professor Harry GilSmyth. Holding a double major in English and Music, she graduated from Shaw University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She subsequently earned a Master's of Social Work Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

For more than 30 years, Hazel served as a Clinical Social Worker. Her practice includes work with adolescent girls, families, couples, parents and children; individuals living with mental illness, abuse, neglect, fears, and vio-

lence that interfere with meaningful relationships and a positive sense of self. Hazel now focuses her practice on providing clinical supervision and coaching to psychiatrists, nurses, other clinical social workers, and case managers.

Though Hazel remained true to her trade, she never lost her passion for music. She found time to keep active in a variety of musical interests. She has served choirs as their directress and accompanist for more than 25 years in New York City, Richmond, Virginia, and Raleigh, North Carolina. In New York, she was employed as a music instructor at Bedford Stuyvesant's Junior High School 35. She also served for a number of years on the faculty of the Hampton Ministers' Conference and Organist and Musicians Guild and most recently as Directress of the Adult Choir at Christian Faith Baptist Church from which she is now retiring.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Hazel Baldwin Forbes and her commitment as a social worker and a gifted musician. I also want to thank and applaud Mrs. Forbes for sharing that gift with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful, caring and talented woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, because I was unavoidably detained, I was not able to vote on passage of H.R. 2102 (rollcall No. 973). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yea."

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 35th anniversary of the passing of one of the most important laws in this country: the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act is a keystone law for the protection of our Nation's waters. This law ensures water quality for a healthy environment, the vitality of plant and animal species and most notably, it is fundamental to public health and our survival.

Two-thirds of cities in the United States draw their water from rivers, and our health relies on the health of the rivers. An entire generation has grown up in this country taking for granted the cleanliness of our Nation's waters. For us, it has been as easy as turning on the faucet for a glass of clean, safe drinking water. And I am confident that without the Clean Water Act, this would be in jeopardy.

The Clean Water Act, using both regulatory and non-regulatory tools, has reduced pollution in our waterways. The act established the basic structure for regulating pollutants and gave the Environmental Protection Agency the

authority to implement pollution control programs. The act brought us water quality standards and made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant into navigable waters at any time.

My home State of Oregon has worked hard to do its part in solving its water pollution problems, and no city has done more to advance innovative strategies to mitigate storm water run-off pollution than Portland, Oregon. Run-off is a serious threat to our water quality. In fact, runoff from roads is responsible for 80 percent of the degradation of the Nation's surface water.

Portland has been making an extraordinary investment toward a comprehensive Greenstreets Implementation Program that will reduce impervious surfaces, treat and filter storm water at its source, reduce demands on the city's collection system, support regulatory compliance and enhance watershed health. In short, greenstreets filter storm water before the water soaks into the ground, pours into a river or ends up in the sewer system. The city of Portland estimates that its green street projects reduce pollution in runoff by up to 90 percent.

Greenstreets also save money for sewer ratepayers and taxpayers. According to the city of Portland, traditional pipe and stormwater disposal systems can cost up to twice as much as green streets. What more could you ask for: safe drinking water and clean rivers, at less cost to the taxpayer.

Portland is a national leader in this and will continue to be a laboratory for techniques that other jurisdictions can use to meet regulations of the Clean Water Act. It is through these innovative technologies and techniques that the Clean Water Act will continue to meet its mission to provide the public with safe, clean drinking water.

ON H.R. 3580

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I opposed H.R. 3580, a bill to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA), because it failed to address the fundamental drivers of the high cost of pharmaceuticals, the pharmaceutical industry's deplorable safety record, and their lack of accountability.

The bill ignores the single biggest conflict of interest at the FDA. The pharmaceutical industry pays hundreds of millions of dollars every year to the Food and Drug Administration, which is tasked with regulating them. The result is that the FDA has a relationship with industry that treats them more like a customer than an entity in need of oversight and evaluation. A 2002 Government Accountability Office report found that "Our analysis of FDA data found that a higher percentage of drugs has been withdrawn from the market for safety-related reasons since PDUFA's enactment than prior to the law's enactment . . ." Furthermore, FDA staff morale has declined. The GAO found that "FDA's attrition rates for most of the scientific occupations involved in its drug review process are higher than those for comparable occupations in other federal public health agencies and the remainder of the federal government." A Consumer Reports poll in

April 2007 found that 67% of customers "are concerned that much of the FDA's funding comes from the drug industry." This bill actually increases the amount the drug companies pay to the FDA. To ensure independence, the drug approval process should be funded by Congress.

Second, the bill passed on a rare opportunity to address ways in which the pharmaceutical industry makes profits at the expense of health. An early version of the bill gave the FDA authority to ban Direct to Consumer advertising for three years, a practice which has repeatedly proven to influence drug use based on reason other than the merits of the drug. This bill contained only authority to assess penalties which pale in comparison to the profit to be made from running the ads.

Another opportunity lost was to address the failure of the industry to put out new drugs that are substantially different from drugs that are already on the market, but which are less profitable because their patent monopolies are running out. Requiring clinical trials to compare new drugs not only to placebos but to existing drugs would, for the first time, give a clear indication of how useful the proposed drug is. It would also therefore provide a powerful incentive for the industry to focus its resources on truly innovative drugs instead of spending copiously on marketing to sell more profitable but less beneficial drugs. This bill gives lip service to these head-to-head trials when it should require them.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SOUTHWEST MUSEUM

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, California. On October 21, 2007, community members and leaders throughout Los Angeles will gather at the Southwest Museum to celebrate the institution's 100 years of service, historical significance, and role as an educational pillar in the worldwide community.

The Southwest Museum is the second oldest museum west of the Mississippi River, and the first museum in Los Angeles. Initially located in the Hamburger Building at Eighth Street and Broadway in downtown Los Angeles, the Southwest Museum moved into its historic home above the Arroyo Seco in 1914, opening its doors to the public in August of that year. The beautiful Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building, designed by Sumner Hunt and Silas Bums, has stood as a cultural and educational landmark and destination in northeast Los Angeles since that time.

The Southwest Museum was established in 1907 by Charles Lummis and the Southwest Society, who originally conceived it as a museum of science, history, and art. By the 1920s, the mission of the Southwest Museum had narrowed to study the history and culture of America's indigenous peoples. Over the course of time, the Southwest Museum has assembled one of the world's largest and most important collections of Native American mate-

rial, representing indigenous peoples, spanning the breadth of North America. Its 250,000 ethnographic, archaeological, and historic artifacts comprise one of the largest nongovernmental collections of this type.

On May 27, 2003, the Southwest Museum merged with the Autry Museum of Western Heritage to create the Autry National Center. Through conservation of the collections, work on rehabilitation of the historic building, and plans for exhibitions, as well as cultural and educational programming, the Autry National Center is working to secure a vibrant life for the Southwest Museum's next 100 years. I am pleased to serve as a charter member of The Southwest Society, a newly established group committed to restoring and revitalizing the Southwest Museum in the vision of its founder, Charles Lummis.

Through the years I have been fortunate to hold a number of community town hall meetings and art competition ceremonies at the Southwest Museum. Each time I visit this site, I am awestruck by the combination of the buildings' architecture, the natural oak tree-covered hillside, and the display of amazing artifacts—it really takes me back in time. When I go to the Southwest Museum, I find myself slowing down, and taking time to pause and wonder about eras and peoples past. We desperately need such historic treasures preserved in our communities and as part of The Southwest Society, I am committed to helping transform these preeminent historic resources into premiere cultural and educational destinations for even more Angelenos and visitors alike.

Madam Speaker, while I opened by highlighting the Southwest Museum's century-long service to the world wide community, I want to close by recognizing the nearby Northeast Los Angeles community neighbors' dedication and passion for the Southwest Museum. Many share an intense loyalty and kinship with this historic institution in their neighborhood. They've come to the museum as school children and then shared the displays with their own children. As these neighbors go about their daily errands, they gaze up to see the Southwest Museum's Caracol Tower understanding that this institution is part of their fabric of life. I know that many of these neighbors will be joining in this Sunday's celebration of the Southwest Museum's 100-year anniversary, and I also wish to salute them for their steadfast loyalty in seeking to preserve their wonderful neighbor.

IN HONOR OF THE LIPPMAN FAMILY'S PUBLIC SERVICE TO NORTH JERSEY'S SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Jewish community of North Jersey in honoring an extraordinary family that has made giving back a multi-generational legacy.

This Sunday, October 21st, the Jewish Home Foundation of North Jersey will honor the Lippman Family of New Jersey for their intergenerational support for programs and

services aiding thousands of Jewish seniors. Bill and Doris Lippman instilled strong values of community, compassion, and service in their children, who in turn have passed those very values onto their children. As a result, three generations of Lippman lineage have spent countless hours supporting their synagogues, local charitable organizations, and senior care programs. Though the family mourns the passing of their tremendous matriarch Doris, they carry on her legacy with respect and love for her memory.

In Hebrew, the word commonly referred to as the equivalent of the English charity is *tzedakah*. But, as scholars often point out, *tzedakah* goes far beyond the simple concept of benevolence and generosity; it implies an act of justice and righteousness. The Lippman Family has taken this concept even further, making the love of giving back to one's community a gift that is passed down from generation to generation.

As the Jewish Home Foundation celebrates the opening of its newest assisted living facility in River Vale, New Jersey and continues its notable tradition of caring at the facility in Rockleigh, I join them in saluting the tremendous public service of the Lippman Family whose generosity and support has made the Foundation's work possible.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS FINE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who, throughout his life, exhibited leadership and dedication in serving the working men and women of the Upper Peninsula and our Nation. On Saturday, the men and women of Michigan's Upper Peninsula will honor Louis Fine by inducting him into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

The organized labor movement enjoys a rich and storied history in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). From the Copper Country mining strikes of 1913, which were immortalized in Woody Guthrie's 1913 Massacre, to the modern day, working men and women across the U.P. have a proud heritage of trade unionism. Likewise, throughout his life, Louis Fine exemplified that rich tradition, generously donating his personal time and effort to his local Union and to the Labor movement.

A member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Local 598, Louis developed a reputation as someone always willing to go the extra mile and take on additional duties in support of his local union. Throughout his lifetime of union involvement, he served his union in many different capacities. He served as an Apprentice Instructor for carpenters and millwrights during the early 1990's. He was a delegate for his local Union to the Marquette County Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He also served as Treasurer and distinguished President of Local 958 for many years.

Louis was well respected and greatly loved, not only in the U.P. Labor movement, but in the greater Marquette community and, indeed, throughout much of the U.P. Beyond his work in the labor movement he was a dedicated community volunteer. Those who knew him

best describe how he was always willing to give of himself to help others, never asking or expecting recognition for his selfless acts. Not only did he regularly volunteer for Labor causes and programs, but he often made time to help programs for the disadvantaged and other charitable causes.

Perhaps one of Louis' greatest accomplishments for the Labor movement was the revival of the Upper Peninsula Labor Day picnic, parade and program in the early 1990s. Louis is widely recognized as the driving force that helped to reinvigorate this annual celebration, which means so much to the working men and women of the U.P.

After a lifetime of hard work, Louis Fine passed away in 2003. He is survived by his loving wife of many years, Betty.

Madam Speaker, one of the titans of the American Labor movement, the head of the American Federation of Labor Samuel Gompers once called Labor Day, "[T]he day for which the toilers in past centuries looked forward when their rights and their wrongs would be discussed . . . that the workers of our day may not only lay down their tools of labor fore a holiday, but upon which they may touch shoulders in marching phalanx and feel the stronger for it.

Every year, as the working men and women of the U.P. march shoulder to shoulder, we remember and honor the sacrifices of our predecessors in the Labor movement. Henceforth, every Labor Day, as we remember our ancestors of the Labor movement, the working men and women of the U.P. will remember Mr. Louis Fine for bringing back the hallowed tradition of the annual U.P. Labor Day picnic and parade.

Madam Speaker, since 1993, outstanding labor leaders in northern Michigan have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Louis Fine is a deserving addition to this august group and, I salute his memory. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing his many contributions to the Upper Peninsula Labor movement, his dedication to all working men and women, and his commitment to the Marquette and Upper Peninsula community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARENTS' EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill that is of extreme importance to our nation's parents and the future protection of their children: the Parents' Empowerment Act. As we all know, millions of children access the Internet and other interactive entertainment products each and every day. As this number increases, more and more of our nation's children are unexpectedly and tragically exposed to pornography and other indecent material. According to a study by Grunwald and Associates, 25 percent of American children have had at least one unwanted experience with on-line pornography.

The Department of Justice, until the past few years, has not been prosecuting obscenity and child pornography cases.

The Parents' Empowerment Act is very simple. It allows the parent or legal guardian of a minor to sue, in a district court, any person who knowingly sells or distributes a product that contains material that is harmful to minors that:

1. A reasonable person would expect a substantial number of minors be exposed to the material and;

2. As a result of exposure to such material, the minor in question suffers personal injury, or injury to their mental or moral welfare.

If the minor is the prevailing party, they will be awarded a minimum of \$10,000 for each instance of damaging material. In addition, the court can order the minor's attorney fees to be covered and punitive damages to be awarded.

This bill establishes a new and appropriate test for what is obscene for a minor. Currently, the United States Supreme Court utilizes the "Miller Test" to determine if material can be labeled obscene and not protected by the First Amendment. The Parents' Empowerment Act builds upon the same test, but, in the case of minors, modifies the "third prong" of the test by requiring any material to "lack serious literary, artistic, political and scientific value for minors sufficient to overcome the pernicious effect of that material." In other words, what is obscene for an adult is entirely different than what should be considered obscene for a minor and, as a result, should be treated as such.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a step in the right direction in providing parents with the resources they need for what is their number one priority, protecting their kids. I am proud to once again introduce the Parents' Empowerment Act and request my colleagues give this important legislation their utmost consideration.

MEXICAN TRUCKS ON AMERICAN ROADS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman TIM RYAN and others for organizing a special order to discuss the dangers of allowing Mexican trucks on American roads.

I rise today because I am concerned that allowing Mexican trucks open access to American roads will threaten American wages and the safety on our highways.

There is no question that foreign competition from lower paid Mexican drivers will compromise the hard and dedicated fight by American workers.

American workers deserve fair wages for their hard work and Mexican workers should not be exploited either.

There are concerns about safety including whether Mexican trucks are safe and what allowing them on U.S. highways would do.

There is no question that road safety and vehicle standards in Mexico are not the same as what we require in the United States of America.

I believe that both the United States and Mexico should have a strong and healthy

workforce but the U.S. worker should not be the compromise.

Let us protect the American worker and not compromise the safety and well-being of our children and families.

HONORING THE TOP DOG ALUMNI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the Top Dog Award recipients from California State University, Fresno.

The Top Dog Awards is a great tradition for CSU Fresno. It allows the University to honor alumni that continue to give back to the University. There are three award categories; Distinguished Alumnus Award, Outstanding Alumni Awards and the Arthur Safstrom Service Award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor given to an alumna of the University. The award is based on scholarship, leadership and service to CSU Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley and the State of California. It has been established to provide special recognition to an individual who has distinguished themselves through outstanding achievement during their post-collegiate career. The University President and the Alumni Association present the award.

For 2007 the Distinguished Alumnus Award is being awarded to Larry Dickenson, class of 1965. Mr. Dickenson is Boeing Company's Commercial Airplanes Group Senior Vice President of Sales. He was raised in Bakersfield, California and graduated from CSU Fresno with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. From there he has worked with McDonnell Douglas Corporation, Texas Air Corporation and began his career with Boeing in 1986 as the Vice President of Asia/Pacific for the Commercial Airplanes Group. Mr. Dickenson has won major contracts that have helped to assure the launch of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner passenger aircraft. He also helped Boeing consolidate sales of cargo jets in the Pacific Rim market and interest airlines in the company's more efficient new 747-8 jumbo jetliners. Mr. Dickenson was named as one of "World Trade's 25 Most Influential U.S. Global Visionaries" in the June 1997 issue of World Trade magazine, and was featured in Investor's Business Daily in the "Leaders and Success" column. With all of this success, Mr. Dickenson still finds the time to be active in service to CSU Fresno by serving on several boards, including the National Board of Visitors.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards recognizes a CSU Fresno alumna for outstanding accomplishments in their field and to present such alumni to current CSU Fresno students as examples of exceptional achievement. The Alumni Association works in conjunction with the deans of CSU Fresno's eight schools/colleges, as well as the dean of student affairs and the athletic director to identify and select candidates for the awards.

This year there are fourteen Outstanding Alumni Awards from the various schools, colleges and divisions. The honorees are:

Rod Kraft (class of 1977) from the Athletics Department, football. Mr. Kraft is a family and

sports medicine physician, practicing in Fresno. He has assisted CSU Fresno student-athletes for numerous years.

Ernest A. Bedrosian (class of 1955), Krikor Y. Bedrosian (class of 1957) and J. Kenneth Bedrosian (class of 1967) from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. The brothers are partners and leaders in the raisin industry.

John E. Horstmann (class of 1958) from the Craig School of Business. Mr. Horstmann is president of Horstmann Financial and Insurance Services in Fresno. He has been an agent of New York Life Insurance Company for almost fifty years.

James Finley (class of 1974) from the Division of Graduate Studies. Mr. Finley works the U.S. Department of Defense as the deputy undersecretary for acquisition and technology.

Larry Powell (class of 1971) from the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. Mr. Powell was elected to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 2006 and has also served on numerous advisory boards for CSU Fresno.

Charles "Frank" Markarian (class of 1962) from the College of Engineering. Mr. Markarian has worked in assessment and development of advanced technologies for air-launched weapons. He was awarded the U.S. Navy's highest award for civilian service.

Dr. Bette Rusk Keltner (class of 1972 and 1974) from the College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Keltner is the Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies at Georgetown University.

Dr. Marlene Dong Wong (class of 1969) from the Henry Madden Library. Dr. Wong is the Director of Crisis Counseling and Intervention Services for the Los Angeles Unified School District and is considered to be an expert on school safety programs.

Dr. Joan Otomo-Corgel (class of 1972) from the College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Otomo-Corgel is a former CSU trustee who is a dentist and a UCLA adjunct professor. She serves on the CSU Fresno National Board of Visitors.

Steve Magarian (class of 1972 and 1974) from the College of Social Sciences. Mr. Magarian is a former Fresno County sheriff.

Gerald Tahajian (class of 1963) from the Division of Student Affairs. Mr. Tahajian was a CSU Fresno student body president and is now a prominent lawyer.

The third award, the Arthur Safstrom Service Award, is awarded to an alumna or friend of CSU Fresno who has given outstanding service to the Alumni Association and/or the University. This year the award is presented to Rosellen Kershaw (class of 1947), whose volunteer services and financial support has benefited numerous community organizations, including the University.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate all of the Top Dog Award recipients for their individual contributions. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the honorees many years of continual success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. BETTY CLECKLEY AND HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Betty Cleckley, a dedicated educator for her 17 years of service and leadership to Marshall University. She has been at Marshall since 1989 when she accepted the new position of Vice President for Multicultural Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia. For her years of service to the students, faculty and staff of Marshall University and the community of Huntington I offer my deepest thanks and gratitude.

A native West Virginian, Dr. Cleckley graduated from Douglass High School before going on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Marquette University, a Master of Social Science degree from Smith College, A Ph.D. degree from Brandeis University and a post doctoral certificate in Higher Education Management from Harvard University.

Before working at Marshall, Dr. Cleckley held a number of administrative and teaching positions in the health and higher education fields. She was Associate Dean and Associate Professor of the School of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Assistant to the President and Coordinator of Meharry's Centers of Excellence at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee. She also served as the Director of the Black College Initiative at the Agency on Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration in Washington, DC.

In 1989, when Dr. Cleckley returned to Huntington, she did so with dreams of making a difference in her hometown community. The Harmony Institute at Marshall University was one of the many dreams she was able to realize during her tenure. The institute was conceived in 1997 with the mission to actively promote an appreciation for human and civil rights, social justice and racial harmony among students, administrators, faculty and staff, as well as among residents of surrounding communities so that they may have a global impact on achieving racial equality in this rapidly changing multicultural society. Over the years, the Harmony Institute has continued to fulfill that multicultural mission through community engagement and scholarly developments.

During her time at Marshall, she has been an active member of the community and has been honored many times over for her hard work and dedication. Dr. Cleckley served on the State of West Virginia Human Rights Commission and currently serves on the Martin Luther King, Jr. State of West Virginia Holiday Commission, Cabell Huntington Hospital Foundation and the Center for Aging and Health Care in West Virginia, Inc. She is also a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Some of the many honors she has received are: "The WV Civil Rights Award" from the Governor of West Virginia in 2003, the "Celebrate Women Award in Education" award by

the West Virginia's Women Commission in 2003 and the "Betty Jane Cleckley Minority Research Award" which was established by the American Public Health Association and recognizes research on minority health issues, particularly among the elderly.

In her poem, "Still I Rise", poet and educator Maya Angelou writes:

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Time and again, Dr. Betty Cleckley has proven her ability to rise up and take on new challenges. Her time at Marshall has left an indelible footprint and a legacy that will be a hard act to follow. I wish Dr. Cleckley my best in all of her future endeavors and know that whatever new tasks she decides to take on, she will as always rise to the challenge.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Wednesday afternoon, October 17, 2007 and missed 2 votes. Please note in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that had I been present, I would have voted as noted below: Rollcall vote 979 nay; Rollcall vote 980 yea.

A MAN OF HONOR, A LIFE OF
VALOR (CAPTAIN RICHARD
MACON)

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a great American. CPT Richard Macon was not only a hero to this country, but an example of how true tenacity can overcome any obstacle. Richard Macon, a prestigious Tuskegee Airmen and one of this country's most skilled pilots, taught us that determination and commitment have the ability to help one achieve his/her dreams. Captain Macon also taught us that even the ugly head of discrimination and institutional racism cannot suppress the enduring American spirit which keeps this country a leader in the world.

Macon, with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, joined the Army Air Forces in 1943 and graduated from the segregated flying school for black airmen at Tuskegee, AL, to become a fighter pilot. Lt. Macon served as a replacement pilot with the 99th Fighter Squadron and had 16 successful missions to his credit. On August 12, 1944, he was strafing ground targets over southern France when his P-51 Mustang was hit by ground fire while escorting bombers over a German radar station. His plane was flipped upside down at treetop level and the right wing separated. Macon learned that his plane had crashed into a building used by the Germans as a headquarters, killing 40 German officers and soldiers. Macon's neck was broken and the lower

part of his body was temporarily paralyzed. Narrowly missing being shot by a firing squad, he became a war prisoner for more than 9 months. Captain Macon is quoted as saying, "It was the greatest feeling in the world, seeing them tear down the swastika and raising the stars and stripes." That feeling was tempered when he returned home on a troop ship at Boston Harbor. There he was greeted by the grim reality that African Americans still had a long way to go. At the end of the gangplank were two directional signs: white go this way and colored go this way," he said. "Uh huh, the war is just starting." Captain Macon's decorations include the Air Medal, Presidential Citation and Purple Heart. He retired with the rank of Captain.

Macon's life itself is a lesson in how to succeed but Richard Macon's desire to teach others led him to acquire a master's degree and join the ranks of public education, teaching at the high school level at Northern High School and progressing to the level of principal and personnel administration in his later years. He was a truly caring person who enjoyed helping others and believed in education as a means of bettering oneself. We will remember him as an officer, a gentleman, a teacher, and a leader amongst men of greatness.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I along with my colleague Congressman COSTA, would like to recognize the City of Bakersfield Fire Department on 130 years of excellent service to the residents of Bakersfield, Kern County, and the surrounding area in the Central Valley of California. Congressman COSTA and I both represent the City of Bakersfield and are extremely supportive and proud of the Bakersfield Fire Department.

In 1868, Colonel Thomas Baker moved into the Central Valley and settled near the present-day intersection of Truxtun Avenue and R Street. Recognized as a good neighbor, Colonel Baker would help people fight fires using buckets, a hand-drawn hook and ladder truck, and several hand-drawn two wheeled hose carts.

In 1877, the City of Bakersfield Fire Department was officially formed, relying first on hand-drawn and eventually on horse-drawn carts. Today, the Bakersfield Fire Department consists of 13 fire stations, uses modern equipment and has 13 engine companies. The department employs 183 professionally trained and sworn firefighters and 25 dedicated civilians. In fact, the Central Fire Station, which was constructed in 1939, is still in operation today.

What started in 1877 as a group of residents who wanted to keep their developing town safe from fires is now a professional, disciplined, and elite force that serves and protects more than 300,000 people and has a primary jurisdiction of more than 83,000 acres. In addition to its primary responsibilities in Bakersfield, the Fire Department also provides support services to neighboring jurisdictions in

the event of natural disasters, forest fires, and other emergencies.

My family and I have a history fighting fires in the area. My father, Owen, was an Assistant Chief for the Bakersfield Fire Department. My uncle, Tom, was the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department. Like my uncle, I also worked for the Kern County Fire Department as a Seasonal Firefighter.

For well over a century, the City of Bakersfield Fire Department has been fighting the area's fires, earning these firefighter professionals the respect and admiration of a grateful community. It is a singular person who races into burning buildings at risk of life and limb to save the lives of fellow human beings, and to drive with sirens wailing towards disaster areas to provide vital emergency and recovery services, when others are evacuating. Congressman COSTA and I are fortunate that the City that we both represent is protected by our brave firefighters. The Bakersfield Fire Department, through the service of its current and former employees, has exemplified dedication to service in the Bakersfield area for the past 130 years. I am honored to recognize the Bakersfield Fire Department's 130th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my mother, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 961–979 on Monday, October 5 through Thursday, October 18, 2007. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"Yea" on rollcall votes 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 980, 981, 982; and

"Nay" on rollcall votes 972, 979.

IN HONOR OF A YOUNG HERO,
JAZMYNE ROBINSON

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a special young hero in my district.

Jazmyne Robinson is only nine years old, yet when she found her two year old brother floating face down in the family swimming pool, she had the presence of mind to call her father for help and then immediately dial 911. Keeping her composure, she gave her address to the operator and remained on the phone until help arrived.

The unconscious two year old was rushed to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, where he made a full recovery after one month in a coma.

It is important that Jazmyne is recognized not only for her heroism, but so that her life-saving actions can set an example for others. Touched by Jazmyne's heroic deed, and her

baby brother's miraculous recovery, the Baby Otter Swim School in Fort Lauderdale presented the family with a gift package of free swim lessons and two water safety DVD's. The surviving toddler is no longer afraid of the water and loves to swim.

Unfortunately, not every story has a happy ending. The Center for Disease Control estimates that nine people die every day due to unintentional drowning. It is the second leading cause of death for children ages one to fourteen, and in California, Arizona and Florida, it is the number one cause of death in children under five.

The importance of drowning prevention and swimming pool safety cannot be emphasized enough. We must all work together to dramatically lower the drowning statistics in the United States and around the world. Jazmyne Robinson is an example that no one is too young or too small to benefit from pool safety and drowning education. Her heroic efforts were rewarded with a medal of honor from the Baby Otter Swim School at a ceremony with the Pembroke Pines Mayor and Broward County Commissioners.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1721, The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, a bill that I sponsored which seeks to prevent incidents like the one that would have taken the life of Jazmyne's brother had it not been for her heroism. Our nation is touched by Jazmyne's courage and fast action.

THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE,
USIP

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, 40 years ago, U.S. Senator Vance Hartke envisioned the creation of the U.S. Institute of Peace, USIP. Now, the realization of his dream is taking shape. We have broken ground on a new building to house the USIP on the consecrated ground of the National Mall in the Nation's capital between the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center. Senator Hartke's dream truly is a manifestation of the most ancient and ageless dream of humanity—enduring peace on earth. "I have the unshakeable conviction," Senator Hartke declared when he introduced the legislation, "that we will have it within our power and capacity not only to end the Vietnam War, but the syndrome of war itself."

This center is not the only mark on democracy he has left behind. His son Jan continues to help shape the country in the finest tradition of his father in many matters, including efforts to stop global warming, itself a threat to long-term peace.

The USIP will not be a monument to an individual nor a memorial to a significant event in our Nation's past; instead, it will be a building dedicated to an idea and the future of all people. It will be a working building where scholars with different disciplines can sift through the dynamics of war and peace and gain insights that can help America and the world avoid unnecessary or accidental conflicts and wars. With its large auditorium, it will be a place where heads of state from many different lands and cultures will be able to address their own strategies for peace. Most of

all, it will be a place that illuminates and advances the greatest ideal of all. For without peace, all our other cherished causes and values cannot prevail.

The idea for the USIP arose during the Vietnam war, when Senator Hartke had just broken with his close friend, President Johnson. Even though Senator Hartke opposed the war because he believed it was morally indefensible and financially antithetical to the goals of the Great Society, President Johnson interpreted dissent as disloyalty to him and his administration. At that point, Senator Hartke realized that something was missing in the Nation's decision-making apparatus on the great issues of war and peace. Senator Hartke's son Jan remembers, "Late at night, Dad would be sitting in his chair, reading stacks of books about the causes of past wars. He was appalled at how many wars could have been avoided, reduced in their severity or shortened. He concluded that America needed a non-partisan voice with analytical depth and institutional heft whose sole mandate was to make the case for peace, especially when the drums of war beat the loudest." Senator Hartke saw the USIP as a trusted, convincing and unequivocal voice for peace that could speak to the President, the Congress and the people.

Senator Hartke knew the terrible costs of war, having served with both his brothers in WWII. He passed legislation to create the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the U.S. Senate. He wrote the law to establish the Business People's Peace Corps and the International Executive Service Corps, to address the root causes of war. Along with USIP, he also introduced legislation to create a cabinet-level Department of Peace.

Senator Hartke's challenging and prophetic words still ring true today, "The attainment of a just and lasting peace will be the supreme moral achievement of civilization. Yet it will not be won by the cynics or the naysayers, nor by those who are afraid of ridicule for being perceived as soft or utopian, nor by those lacking infinite patience or resolve. The victory of world peace will be won by those hearts and minds that never give up on the noblest quest of them all. For in the end, it is the dreamer who is the greatest realist."

Senator Hartke's dedication to peace was recognized widely. His widow, Martha, recalls, "After Vance passed away in 2003, his friend President Clinton called my son and told him, 'When I came to work in the Senate as a young man, I saw your father as a shining star because of his principled opposition to the Vietnam War.'" Through the work of the U.S. Institute of Peace, Senator Hartke's star need not fade, but will continue to shed light on the path to peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. SCOTT
RANSOM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Scott Ransom for becoming the fifth president of the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas in August of 2006.

Prior to his Presidency at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Dr. Ransom served as the executive director of the Program for Healthcare Improvement and Leadership Development at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He was also director of Women's Health and Gynecology at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. Dr. Ransom has served as the Senior Vice President and Senior Quality Officer at the Detroit Medical Center, as well as the Medical Director and OB/GYN Head at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

Since 2003, Dr. Ransom has led research and consulting teams that focus on improving health care delivery, women's health, leadership development and performance improvements. He has also led research in health disparities, including infant mortality, an issue that is very important to my district.

His efforts have garnered significant funding from reputable organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Ransom has a master of business association degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the University of Health Sciences' College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City. He is involved with such organizations as the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American College of Physician Executives, the American College of Surgeons, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has published over 100 articles and seven books related to clinical improvement.

The North Texas region is truly fortunate to have the type of dedicated medical professional that Dr. Scott Ransom personifies, and I wish him every success during his tenure as president at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

HONORING CADET COLONEL
DANIEL ROMAN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from my Congressional District, Cadet Colonel Daniel Roman, for his remarkable achievements as a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

In just a few days, Daniel will be presented with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award. The Spaatz Award is the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, presented to cadets who demonstrate extraordinary leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace knowledge. For every one thousand cadets, only two are selected for this distinct honor.

Daniel first joined the Civil Air Patrol in July 2000. From his first moments in Fox Valley Composite Squadron IL-274, Daniel has exhibited a true love of flying. His hard work and commitment paid off as he was chosen to attend Officer Training School in Wisconsin and Air Education Training Command at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas. Throughout his time in the Civil Air Patrol, Daniel has set an example for others. For over 7 years, he committed himself fully to learning and developing the

skills of a seasoned member of the Civil Air Patrol.

On June 15, 2007, Daniel successfully completed the Carl A. Spaatz Exam, the final stage of a long and grueling journey through sixteen rigorous skill tests. Having overcome this final obstacle, he now joins the ranks of the Civil Air Patrol's best and brightest, a recipient of the General Carl A. Spaatz Award for outstanding cadets.

Daniel, today I join with your family and friends in offering my congratulations for this well deserved honor. You've made us all proud.

Finally, Daniel, I want to challenge you to maintain the dedication and commitment that has taken you so far already. Although the road ahead of you surely contains many more challenges, you have shown that you can and will overcome each obstacle as you pursue your dreams.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in congratulating Cadet Colonel Daniel Roman, recipient of the Civil Air Patrol General Carl A. Spaatz Award.

WDAS-AM: A PIONEERING AFRICAN
AMERICAN VOICE IN PHILADELPHIA, PA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and memorialize WDAS-AM, a pioneering radio station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for its extraordinary and historic acts of cultural, spiritual and political bravery. This organization has stood for the causes of freedom and justice in helping secure the civic and human rights of African Americans and deserves the recognition and thanks of this body. The momentous victories of the civil rights and protest movements, aided by WDAS, led the United States on a new path recognizing the human dignity of all people and sparking the modern movements for the rights of women, Native Americans, Hispanics and other historically disenfranchised people.

Although WDAS in its historic role is effectively gone, the station's phenomenal impact on my hometown and our nation is a story that should be told. I am sharing, for the record, a letter I received from Wynne Alexander, a Philadelphian who is both a historian of WDAS and the daughter of a station co-founder. I believe her words are helpful in understanding this remarkable story.

In 1951, Dr. Max M. Leon and Bob Klein undertook a revolutionary endeavor, instituting one of the nation's first Black Radio stations, WDAS-AM of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This industry-leading broadcast facility had a galvanizing social impact in our state, and in fact, across this country. This was not just a radio station, it was a cultural institution bringing its listeners aspects of every known societal necessity from award winning news coverage, to the finest musical programming, to governmental and religious affairs.

Thanks to their pioneering actions, station WDAS-AM was eventually joined by other such stations. But none was ever more effective in standing for justice and encouraging enlightenment both locally and nationally. Because of its unique position and timing,

its contributions to the causes of freedom and justice make WDAS-AM the premiere Black station in the history of this country.

Dr. Leon and Mr. Klein did not do this in a time of peace and prosperity. It was a time of dangerous social upheaval. The realities of Jim Crow America were still very much alive in 1951, including racially motivated murders of social progressives, lynchings, segregated schools, housing, public transportation, drinking fountains, and certainly the majority of White shop owners did not want Black people shopping in their stores. This was the climate in which Leon and Klein found themselves having to change the minds of White, retail America, showing them and Madison Avenue the humanity, strength and beauty of the Black community. In their everyday actions, these two White men finessed, asked, implored and when necessary demanded that the rest of White Philadelphia and White America respect the Black community the way they did. What Max Leon did in allowing his young son-in-law to make this stand was an extraordinary act of courage and should go down as one of the greatest leaps of faith in the history of American Business.

WDAS was the only station to stand up for the rights of minority broadcasters, successfully suing Arbitron Industries, proving they were racist in their listenership accounting methods of America's minorities. In winning this class action judgment against Arbitron, WDAS paved the way for equality in the market place for all minority broadcasters and with the ensuing enhanced revenues, proved to all of corporate America the vitality and economic strength of the Black community.

By the mid 1950s, WDAS had established one of the first and only full service broadcast news departments providing major coverage of every civil rights breakthrough during a historic era in our nation's history. The newsroom was packed with cutting edge, highly talented journalists. WDAS was there bringing first hand reporting from Brown v. the Topeka Board of Education, Rosa Parks' refusal to take a back seat, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, to the Little Rock, Arkansas riots, the Birmingham Church Bombings, the integration of Alabama University, Dr. King's marches on Washington D.C., his winning the Nobel Peace Prize, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. WDAS reporters and radio personalities covered every aspect, from the marches in the street to the presidential signatures at the White House.

WDAS was responsible for bringing Dr. King to Philadelphia, forging his alliance with NAACP president Cecil Moore, Esq. WDAS then sponsored a parade down Market Street in Philadelphia introducing Dr. King to the city. They also commissioned buses taking Freedom Riders to the South and supplied buses to take people to all of Dr. King's marches. WDAS' unprecedented and innovative programming efforts are also credited with keeping Philadelphia calm in the wake of King's assassination. Other cities expressed their anguish in violent riots. Philadelphia mourned their loss in the non-violent manner Dr. King always advocated.

In a letter written one year after King's assassination, King confidant and Ambassador Andrew Young said this about WDAS:

"For the past number of years WDAS and its manager Robert Klein have been of great service to Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. They have supported us editorially, financially, spiritually and with a great amount of their air time. . . To our knowledge there is no station in America that has worked harder, longer and with more dedication for Black people than WDAS in Philadelphia."

Demonstrating its enormous cultural awareness and forward thinking, WDAS also made a broadcast home for Malcolm X. Very few, if any stations can make that claim and almost none of them welcomed both Dr. King and Malcolm X, during their lifetimes.

WDAS also celebrated a resounding victory against racism when it supported and partnered with Cecil Moore, Esq. in his victorious effort to integrate Girard College. This move was first advocated years earlier on the station's airwaves by revered Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Raymond Pace Alexander.

For decades, WDAS was instrumental in leading, supporting and encouraging the various consciousness-raising and financial boycotts to curtail United States business involvement in South Africa until that government effectively fell, ending its racist policies.

Years earlier, WDAS was also the spearhead when Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan launched his boycott against the Greyhound Bus Company in Philadelphia. Together they were successful in racially integrating the staff of drivers and personnel.

Rev. Sullivan and the Zion Baptist Church were not alone. From Bright Hope Baptist to the Church of the Advocate and many more stops in between, the "overground" railroad forged by WDAS performed major works of social progress in partnership with the leaders of every major church in Philadelphia and neighboring states as well. Their hands of partnership also extended to any and all of the smaller churches within that area.

WDAS held numerous "radiothons" raising money to benefit churches and people in need. One of the most famous of these broadcasts was a House of Umoja-inspired "life-athon"—a gun surrender program where gang members and others brought in their weapons and pledged themselves to the principles of non violence.

WDAS worked with hundreds of national and local social activists among them, Dick Gregory and Father Paul Washington helping to calm the city during the days after the King assassination. WDAS assisted a future national leader in youth awareness, Sister Palaka Fattah of the House of Umoja, who was strategizing and creating revolutionary ways of handling troubled young people in an extraordinary effort to stop the frightening gang warfare and fatalities gripping the city in 1969 and '70. Partnering with other exceptionally brave, strong, predominantly female social activists, WDAS News and the station's Public Affairs Departments helped dramatically cut those gang death statistics through a concerted effort of community outreach, special news reporting and social programs.

WDAS launched an anti-drug campaign in the early 1970s. The highly vaunted "Help A Junkie Bust A Pusher" program helped the station win one of its 13 Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Medals. Those medals were joined by scores of Associated Press Awards and recognition from other social, journalistic and governmental organizations dedicated to amelioration. The station's "Job Hunt" program, initiated at the height of a crippling recession and the editorial excellence of Jim Klash won the station the highly coveted Armstrong Award.

WDAS was also responsible for the legendary Freedom Shows where the finest Rhythm and Blues talent in the world was brought into Philadelphia for the benefit of worthy civil rights and social organizations. This amazing care and concern was also amplified by the station's award winning public affairs department.

WDAS was also the home of one of the first Black talk shows in the history of this country, the first in Philadelphia and probably

the first show on the East Coast: The Listening Post, with Joe Rainey.

WDAS charities raised and distributed hundreds of thousands of pre-1980 dollars to thousands of people in the tri-state area, year after year.

WDAS also contributed to the enormous popularity of Rhythm and Blues music and helped elevate African American R & B artists. At a time when Black artists could not get their records played on White radio stations, at a time when Black radio talent could not get hired at White stations, at a time when Black artists were being paid as little as one tenth of what White artists were making, at a time when Black artists could not walk through the lobbies of the clubs in which they were appearing, WDAS forged an atmosphere of respect and reverence, creating quality showcasing for what was destined to become one of this country's greatest musical contributions to the world. The list of R & B stars helped by WDAS is hundreds of names long. The music history books note WDAS was the first in the country to play records by Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, The Beatles, Marvin Gaye, Buddy Holly, The Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder and Will Smith. WDAS also created jobs and respect for Black talent in every phase of broadcasting and radio production. Radio remained a very segregated industry well into the 1970s. WDAS not only gave opportunities to racial minorities, their staff of women on-the-air was equally impressive.

So let us recognize that this outpouring of caring concern, extraordinary strength, diligence and humanity brought about profound social changes which benefited an entire nation. This magnificent endeavor of amelioration allowed us to benefit from the gifts and talents of all of our people. Let this cultural institution be remembered for the beacon it was, lighting the way in times of need, and in so doing, inspiring similar visionary efforts for future generations to come.

I thank Ms. Alexander for sharing this story and commend the work of her father and all of the people involved in the laudable work done by WDAS-AM in Philadelphia over the years on behalf of our community, country and world. While there is certainly more work to be done, we would not have come this far without these brave and dedicated souls.

CONGRATULATING MEREDITH LARSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Meredith Larson of Pilot Point, Texas on receiving the award for Grand Champion Steer at the Annual Youth Livestock Auction at the State Fair of Texas.

Miss Larson's steer, named Rock Star, was purchased for a record-breaking \$94,000 by the Affiliated Multi-Family Services Inc. Miss Larson's earnings total \$30,000 which she plans on using to help finance her education.

Rock Star first won its weight class, then, advanced to the division competition. Miss Larson then took Rock Star onto the grand drive, which includes one steer from each weight class.

Miss Larson has been competing in livestock shows since she was 8 years old and is a member of Future Farmers of America (FFA). She competes in jackpot shows

throughout the year as well as the larger shows such as the Fort Worth Stock Show, which she plans to compete in this January. Miss Larson is a notable example of how students in the 26th District are committed to achievement not only in the classroom but outside the classroom as well. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.